

VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Notes, May 19, 2005
Accepted July 20, 2005

Present: Matthew Hausmann, Jennifer Page, Sara Oaklander, Margaret O'Brien

Absent: Victoria Haase, Tim Higgins, Paul Solomon, Diane Stafford, Barry Winston

Others Present: Delores Keefe, Jenny Fallon

1. Administrivia

1.1 We prepared a card for Tim Higgins from the Vision 21 Implementation Committee conveying our good wishes to him in his new job.

1.2 There being no quorum, consideration of the minutes of May 5 was postponed to the meeting of June 16, 2005.

2. Announcements and Brief Reports

2.1 Update on Belmont Center Planning

The Belmont Center Planning Committee has been appointed by the Selectmen. Its members include Sara Oaklander, lately of BEDPG, Thayer Donham, Mary Power, and several others including newcomers to Belmont. This group will develop the process for planning in Belmont Center. It will add to its membership once the process is agreed upon. Additional members will likely include a representative of the Belmont Center business community.

2.2 Update on membership

Anne Rittenberg may serve as an alternate for Diane Stafford as representative from the School Committee. This is still to be agreed upon by them.

Barry Winston desires not to be reappointed to the Vision21 Implementation Committee. Jennifer Page has requested the computer file of the "Welcome to Belmont" booklet from him.

Selectmen will appoint additional members during June.

2.3 Update on "Meet Belmont"

Planning for "Meet Belmont" reception on August 31 is progressing.

2.4 Update on May 17 Celebration

Many kudos were offered to Delores Keefe for her speech at the ice cream social recognizing the first anniversary of Massachusetts' initiation of same-sex marriage.

3. Planning for Town Day, May 21, 2005

3.1 Jennifer Page showed the four handouts that will be available to VIC booth visitors: a Working Vision for Belmont's Future (reformatted by Sara Oaklander), information sheet about

Sustainable Belmont, Belmont Neighbor's network information, and a history and summary of the accomplishments of the Belmont VIC.

3.2 Jennifer had also created a nice banner that could perhaps be hung from badminton poles above the table. Lawndale Realty offered the Committee use of their "space" at Town Day, which Jennifer accepted. We are grateful to Lawndale Realty for this donation. We will share the table space with our task forces, Sustainable Belmont and Belmont Neighbors' Network.

3.3 Sara Oaklander offered to set up the table with Jenny Fallon's help; other committee members and volunteers from Sustainable Belmont will help oversee the table during the day.

4. Belmont Neighbors Network

4.1 Neighbors' Network is a small group of busy individuals that organizes "Meet Belmont" very well and also oversees other related projects from time to time. However, all members have other substantial commitments and they lack the time to do much more than this very positive contribution.

4.2 Jennifer asked how we might help develop a broader set of activities. This might include social activities for newcomers but would require recruiting some newcomers to help develop and take over leadership of a social organization that might function like a club.

4.3 Discussion of two major issues followed:

First, the nature of such an organization and its possible purpose and activities was explored. A club like Wellesley? Who would likely take a leadership role? A VIC person or an established Belmont person is unlikely. Also, a newly arrived resident may want some time to get settled in before assuming responsibility for an organization. It was agreed that VIC would get together with the Newcomers Network over the summer to brainstorm about this. In the meantime, it was suggested that the e-mail list of last year's attendees of "Welcome Belmont" might be asked to help out at this year's event on August 31st.

It was suggested that Donna Griswold, ex-member of the School committee, might be a valuable source of suggestions for activities. Jennifer will invite Donna to come talk about her experience in other towns with the VIC and Newcomers Network Steering Committee.

Second, the VIC felt that the difference between the "Newcomers Club" and Neighbors network would be difficult to explain. The term "club" might be a bit off putting because it implied responsibility, and perhaps exclusivity. With that distinction in mind, we reviewed the sign-up sheets for Town Day and suggested that there be only a single sheet for interested individuals. Meg is to call Adine about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O'Brien
Secretary Pro Tem

